

available media types, the interactive program guide comprising:

means for designating at least one channel as a favorite channel based on user selections;

means for designating at least one of the available media types as a preferred media type for a current viewing session independently from designating a favorite channel; and

means for providing a user with the ability to select at least one favorite channel from each of the preferred media types.

34. (Twice Amended) The interactive program guide defined in claim 29, wherein the means for designating at least one of the available media types as a preferred media type for a current viewing session comprises designating a media type associated with a current channel as a preferred media type.

37. (Twice Amended) An interactive program guide that provides access to content from a plurality of available media types, the interactive program guide comprising:

means for designating at least one channel as a favorite channel based on user selections;

means for designating at least one of the available media types as a preferred media type for a current viewing session independently from designating a favorite channel; and

means for displaying to a user a single favorite channel listing from each of the preferred media types, wherein each favorite channel listing is selectable by the user.

42. (Twice Amended) The interactive program guide defined in claim 37, wherein the means for designating at least one of the available media types as a preferred media type comprises means for designating a media type associated with a current channel as a preferred media type.

45. (Twice Amended) A method for providing access to content from a plurality of media types with an interactive program guide comprising:

designating at least one channel as a favorite channel based on user selections;

designating at least one of the available media types as a preferred media type for a current viewing session independently from designating a favorite channel; and

providing a user with the ability to select, at least one favorite channel from each of the preferred media types.

50. (Twice Amended) The method defined in claim 45, wherein designating at least one of the available media types as a preferred media type for a current viewing session comprises designating a media type associated with a current channel as a preferred media type.

53. (Twice Amended) A method for providing access to content from a plurality of media types with an interactive program guide comprising:

designating at least one channel as a favorite channel based on user selections;

designating at least one of the available media types as a preferred media type for a current viewing session independently from designating a favorite channel; and

displaying to a user a single favorite channel listing from each of the preferred media types, wherein each favorite channel listing is selectable by the user.

58. (Twice Amended) The method defined in claim 53, wherein designating at least one of the available media types as a preferred media type for a current viewing session comprises designating a media type associated with a current channel as a preferred media type.

61. (Twice Amended) A system for providing access to content from a plurality of available media types, the system comprising:

a user input device configured to accept user selections; and

user equipment configured to:
designate at least one channel as a favorite channel based on user selections;

designate at least one of the available media types as a preferred media type for a current viewing session independently from designating a favorite channel;
and

provide a user with the ability to select at least one favorite channel from each of the preferred media types.

69. (Twice Amended) A system that provides access to content from a plurality of available media types, the system comprising:

a user input device configured to accept user selections; and

user equipment configured to:

designate at least one channel as a favorite channel based on user selections;

designate at least one of the available media types as a preferred media type for a user selectable period of time independently from designating a favorite channel; and

display to a user a single favorite channel listing from each of the preferred media types, wherein each favorite channel listing is selectable by the user.

Please cancel claims 95-106 without prejudice.

Interview Summary

A telephonic interview on the merits of the present application was conducted on October 22, 2002 between the Examiner, the undersigned, and Ms. Angeline Huang (limited recognition). Applicant, the undersigned, and Ms. Huang wish to thank the Examiner for the courtesies extended during the interview.

The Examiner, the undersigned, and Ms. Huang discussed the patentability of independent claim 29 with

respect to LaJoie and Williams. It was agreed that these references do not show or suggest an interactive program guide that enables designation of favorite channels as well as designation of preferred media types for a current viewing session (i.e., as opposed to a user preference profile that is maintained and updated over multiple viewing sessions). The undersigned proposed amending independent claim 29 to clearly recite that the designation of preferred media types is for a current viewing session. The Examiner indicated that such an amendment would make the claims patentable over LaJoie and Williams.

REMARKS

Claims 29-106 are pending in this application. The Examiner rejected claims 29-106 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over LaJoie et al. U.S. Patent No. 5,850,218 (hereinafter "LaJoie") in view of Williams et al. U.S. Patent No. 5,977,964.

Applicant requests that the amendments indicated above (also shown in the Appendix attached hereto indicating changes made) for claims 29, 34, 37, 42, 45, 50, 53, 58, 61, and 69 be entered to more particularly define the invention. No new subject matter would have been added and the amendments are fully supported and justified by the specification.

These amendments are based on the interview conducted October 22, 2002.

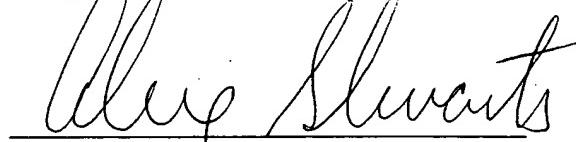
Applicant requests that claims 95-106 be cancelled without prejudice.

In view of the interview conducted October 22, 2002, and the above amendments, applicant respectfully submits that independent claim 29 is allowable. Claims 30-36 are dependent from claim 29 and are allowable because claim 29 is allowable. Claims 37, 45, 53, 61, and 69 are allowable for at least those reasons claim 29 is allowable. Claims 38-44, 46-52, 54-60, 62-68, and 70-76 are dependent from claims 37, 45, 53, 61, and 69, respectively, and are allowable because claims 37, 45, 53, 61, and 69 are allowable.

Conclusion

The foregoing demonstrates that claims 29-94 are allowable. This application is therefore in condition for allowance. Accordingly, reconsideration and allowance of this application are respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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